



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.bpu.state.nj.us

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF CRESCENT)
TELESOLUTIONS, INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE)
LOCAL EXCHANGE AND INTEREXCHANGE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES)
THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY)

ORDER

DOCKET NO. TE03120995

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-1 et seq. and Section 253 of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. §151 et seq., and by letter dated December 12, 2003, Crescent Telesolutions, Inc. ("Petitioner" or "Crescent") filed a Petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting authority to provide all forms of facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services in the State of New Jersey. Pursuant to the Open Public Records Act N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., Petitioner has submitted its financial information under seal and has included a sworn affidavit with substantiation for confidential treatment in order to limit the availability of proprietary information.

Crescent is a privately held corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Petitioner's principal offices are located at 6 Nevada Drive, Building C, Lake Success, New York 11042. Crescent is owned by Crescent Telephone Company, Inc., ("CTCI") a Delaware Corporation. Sun Tel North America, Inc. is wholly owned subsidiary of CTCI that owns, operates and/or controls public pay telephone within the State of Florida.

Petitioner has submitted copies of its Certificate of Incorporation from the State of Delaware and its New Jersey Certificate of Authority to Operate as a Foreign Corporation. According to the Petition, Crescent was formed to provide all forms of facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout New Jersey. Crescent currently does not have an interconnection agreement with an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier ("ILEC"). However, once the Board grants authority requested herein, the Petitioner will opt into an existing agreement at a later date. According to the Petitioner, currently it does not operate in any jurisdiction. Petitioner further states that it is certified to provide facilities-based and resold local exchange service in the State of New York.

Petitioner states that it has not been denied the authority to provide telecommunications services in any jurisdiction and has never been subject to any civil or criminal proceedings.

In its Petition, the Company seeks authority to provide all forms of facilities-based and resold local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout the State of New Jersey. The Petitioner states that initially it intends to provide facilities-based local exchange dial tone service through the purchase of bundled and unbundled network elements from underlying ILECs. Petitioner requests authority to provide the full range of local exchange and intrastate inter-exchange services to enable an expansion of services in the future. Petitioner states that its telecommunications services in the State of New Jersey may be provided through a combination of its own facilities and/or through the resale of the facilities of other certificated carriers. Petitioner further states that until it chooses to deploy its own facilities in the State of New Jersey, all services will be provided on a resold basis. Petitioner states that its services will be available on a full-time basis, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and that it maintains a toll-free number for its customer service inquiries. Petitioner states that it will file a tariff for Board approval.

Petitioner requests a waiver of N.J.S.A. 48:3-7.8 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-4.3 which require that books and records be kept within the State of New Jersey and be maintained in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts ("USOA"), respectively. In the interest of efficiency and to prevent undue burden, Petitioner requests permission to maintain its books and records in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and to keep all books, records, documents and other writings incident to the conduct of Petitioner's business in the State of New Jersey at Petitioner's corporate offices in Lake Success, New York. Petitioner also states, upon written notice from the Board and/or Board Staff, it will provide its books and records at such time and place within New Jersey as the Board may designate and will pay any reasonable expenses for examination of the records.

Petitioner asserts that approval of its Petition will further the public interest by expanding the availability of competitive telecommunications services in the State of New Jersey. Petitioner also asserts that approval of this Petition will provide New Jersey customers with access to new technologies and service choices and will permit customers to achieve increased efficiencies and cost savings.

With regard to its technical and managerial qualifications, Crescent states that it possesses the technical capability and managerial qualifications to operate and manage its telecommunications operations in the State of New Jersey. Petitioner has submitted the professional biographies of its key personnel who, according to Crescent, are well qualified to execute its business plans and have extensive managerial and technical experience in the telecommunications industry.

DISCUSSION

On February 8, 1996, the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, codified in scattered sections of 47 U.S.C. §151 et. seq., was signed into law, removing barriers to competition by providing that:

[n]o State or local statute or regulation, or other State or local legal requirement, may prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the ability of any entity to provide any interstate or intrastate telecommunications service.

[47 U.S.C. §253(a)].

Therefore, Board approval of Petitioner's entry into the telecommunications marketplace is required, assuming Petitioner meets all other requirements, including, but not limited to, a demonstration of financial, technical and managerial integrity.

In considering this Petition, the Board recognizes its obligation not to prohibit entry into intrastate telecommunications markets. 47 U.S.C. §253(a). The Board also considers the New Jersey State Legislature's declaration that it is the policy of the State to provide diversity in the supply of telecommunications services and the Legislature's findings that "competition will promote efficiency, reduce regulatory delay and foster productivity and innovation" and "produce a wider selection of services at competitive market-based prices." N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.16(a)(4); N.J.S.A. 48:2-21.16(b)(1) and (3).

Therefore, having reviewed Crescent's Petition and the information supplied in support thereof, the Board FINDS that the Petitioner is in compliance with the Board's filing requirements to provide telecommunications services in New Jersey. Accordingly, the Board HEREBY AUTHORIZES the Petitioner to provide local exchange and interexchange telecommunications services throughout New Jersey subject to approval of its tariff. The Board also FINDS that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:2-59 and 48:2-60 and N.J.S.A. 52:27E-61 and 52:27E-62, the Petitioner is subject to an annual assessment by both the Board and Division of Ratepayer Advocate, respectively. The Board notes that the Petitioner will not be permitted to provide telecommunications services until a tariff is approved by the Board.

The Board HEREBY ORDERS that:

- 1) Petitioner file its tariff for Board approval.
- 2) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-16.3, Petitioner shall file an annual report as of December 31 of each year, which is due on or before March 31 of the following year.
- 3) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-59 and 48:2-60, Petitioner shall file a statement of gross intrastate revenues from operations form (AR3-1) as of December 31 of each year, which is due on or before June 1 of the following year.

On or before February 1st of each year, the Petitioner will receive from the Division of Audits an annual report package and a statement of gross intrastate revenues from operations form for the preceding calendar year. The purpose of these documents is to report the company's financial information and gross intrastate revenues from operations as of December 31 of each year. The annual report and a statement of gross intrastate revenues from operations form is due on or before March 31 and June 1 of the following year, respectively. If Petitioner does not receive these documents, it is Petitioner's responsibility to obtain them from the Board. It is also the Petitioner's responsibility to ensure timely filing of these reports.

Regarding the Petitioner's request for waivers of the Board rules, the Board FINDS that the Petitioner has demonstrated good cause why the Board should grant relief from its requirements that the Petitioner maintain its books and records in accordance with USOA and within New Jersey. Therefore, subject to the Petitioner's continuing responsibility to provide the Board books and records upon 48 hours notice, and in the manner requested, and to pay to the Board any reasonable expenses or charges incurred by the Board for any investigation or examination

of these books and records, the Board APPROVES the Petitioner's request for the exemptions from maintaining its books and records in accordance with USOA and in New Jersey.

DATED: 2/11/04

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:

(SIGNED)

JEANNE M. FOX
PRESIDENT

(SIGNED)

FREDERICK F. BUTLER
COMMISSIONER

(SIGNED)

CAROL J. MURPHY
COMMISSIONER

(SIGNED)

CONNIE O. HUGHES
COMMISSIONER

(SIGNED)

JACK ALTER
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

(SIGNED)

KRISTI IZZO
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF CRESCENT TELESOLUTIONS, INC.
FOR AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOCAL EXCHANGE AND
INTEREXCHANGE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DOCKET NO. TE03120995

SERVICE LIST

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